

**NONPROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR LETTERS PATENT
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

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Be it known that I, **RICKY JOE BISHOP**, residing at **867
Hidden Lakes Road, Warm Springs, Georgia 31830**, a citizen
10 of the United States, have invented certain new and useful
improvements in a

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GAME CALL DEVICE

20

of which the following is a specification.

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INVENTOR'S REPRESENTATIVE

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GAME CALL DEVICE

TECHNICAL FIELD

5 The present invention relates generally to a game
calling apparatus, and more specifically to a dual
friction-type turkey call, wherein a striking plate is
adapted to be frictionally contacted by a striker for
audibly reproducing the mating, gathering, and feeding
10 calls of wild turkeys.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Game call devices for simulating the sound of turkeys
15 or other game birds are prevalent within the hunting
industry. Most conventional game call devices typically
comprise a slate box and the manual use of a striking
stick. To operate such devices, the slate is held in one
hand while the stick is held in the other. The stick is
20 brought into contact with the slate in short strokes to
simulate the calls of the wild turkey. However, because the
stick must strike the slate at a certain angled stroke
length with a certain force in order to simulate the bird
calls accurately, much practice and skill is required to

effectively mimic or reproduce the desired calls. As such,
it is extremely difficult for a beginner to accurately
simulate the calls via use of such a hand-held device.
Operation of these devices can also be cumbersome for even
5 the most experienced hunters. Specifically, when a turkey
approaches, the device must be put down so that the shotgun
can be picked up, often resulting in loss of the most
opportune moment for aiming and shooting at the turkey.

10 Although friction-type game call devices requiring
single-hand operation are available, such devices are
limited in application, as they must be held in a
particular vertical orientation to ensure that the striker
is held in gravitational contact with the slate. Such
15 restrictions can be extremely cumbersome, especially while
tracking a moving target and attempting to prepare a
shotgun for firing at same.

Therefore, it is readily apparent that there is a need
20 for a game call device that facilitates single-handed
operation by enabling the striker to be held in constant
contact with the sounding device, thereby allowing
unrestricted use of the game call in any physical

orientation. Furthermore, there is a need for a game call device that combines the features and advantages of conventional frictional-type and striking stick devices with the features and advantages of available single-handed
5 devices.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Briefly described, in a preferred embodiment, the
10 present invention overcomes the above-mentioned disadvantages and meets the recognized need for such a device by providing a friction-type game call device comprising a striking plate member and a striking assembly secured to one another, wherein the single-handed
15 operational feature of the game call device permits unrestricted use of the game call device in any physical orientation for accurately simulating and reproducing the sound of turkeys and other game birds.

20 According to its major aspects and broadly stated, the present invention in its preferred form is a game call device generally comprising a striking plate member and a striking assembly. More specifically, the present

invention comprises a striking plate member wherein a striking plate is fixed to the bottom side to provide a frictional surface for contacting a striking stick, and wherein a cavity is formed in the top side for receiving
5 the striking assembly. The striking assembly also comprises a striking plate, wherein the striking plate is manually slid over a stationary striking block to simulate the sounds of turkeys and other game birds, and wherein an elastic retention member is provided to urge the striking
10 plate against the striking block and to automatically return the striking plate to its original starting position within the striking assembly.

Accordingly, a feature and advantage of the present
15 invention is its unique combination and orientation of components, including its acoustic channels and chambers, that amplify the sounds generated by the device.

Another feature and advantage of the present invention
20 is its strategic placement of the sounding board to facilitate the combination of a conventional frictional-type and striking stick device with a one-handed use device.

Another feature and advantage of the present invention is its ability to automatically return the striking plate to its original starting position.

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Another feature and advantage of the present invention is its ability to hold the striking plate in constant contact with the striking block, thereby allowing unrestricted use of the game call device in any physical orientation.

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Another feature and advantage of the present invention is its ability to accurately simulate and mimic the mating, gathering, and feeding calls of wild turkeys.

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Another feature and advantage of the present invention is that its compact size allows for easy and efficient use, and allows a user to readily store the device in his or her pocket.

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Another feature and advantage of the present invention is its single-handed operation that permits the user to

utilize his or her free hand for other activities, such as shooting.

Another feature and advantage of the present invention
5 is that its preset orientation of components allows unskilled users of game call devices to easily utilize the device without practice.

Another feature and advantage of the present invention
10 is its ability to accurately simulate turkey fighting purrs by operating the single-handed use assembly and the striking stick device simultaneously.

These and other features and advantages of the present
15 invention will become more apparent to one skilled in the art from the following description and claims when read in light of the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

20 The present invention will be better understood by reading the Detailed Description of the Preferred and Selected Alternate Embodiments with reference to the

accompanying drawing figures, in which like reference numerals denote similar structure and refer to like elements throughout, and in which:

5 **FIG. 1** is an exploded perspective view of a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the top side of a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

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FIG. 3 is a perspective view of the bottom side of a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view of a preferred
15 embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED
AND SELECTED ALTERNATIVE EMBODIMENTS

20 In describing the preferred and selected alternate embodiments of the present invention, as illustrated in **FIGS. 1-4**, specific terminology is employed for the sake of clarity. The invention, however, is not intended to be

limited to the specific terminology so selected, and it is to be understood that each specific element includes all technical equivalents that operate in a similar manner to accomplish similar functions.

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Referring now to **FIGS. 1-4**, the present invention in a preferred embodiment is a game call apparatus **10** generally preferably possessing striking plate member **20** and striking assembly **120**. As best illustrated in **FIG. 1**, striking plate member **20** and striking assembly **120** are preferably removably secured to one another to form game call apparatus **10**. Although it is preferred that apparatus **10** possess two general components, namely striking plate member **20** and striking assembly **120**, it is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that apparatus **10** could comprise any number of individual components, such as, for exemplary purposes only, a single molded unit wherein a top portion functions as a one-handed use frictional-type game call, and wherein a bottom portion functions as a striking plate.

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Striking plate member **20** is preferably substantially cylindrical-shaped and preferably comprises top side **30**, bottom side **40**, outer peripheral side wall **50**, and inner

side wall 60. Preferably, cavity 32 is formed in the center of top side 30, wherein cavity 32 is substantially circular-shaped and dimensioned for receiving striking assembly 120 therein, thereby removably securing striking plate member 20 to striking assembly 120. Formed preferably on side wall 60 is threaded interface 70, dimensioned for reception of a threaded engagement formed on striking assembly 120, as more fully described below. Although it is preferred that striking assembly 120 be removably securable to striking plate member 20 via threaded engagement, it is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that striking assembly 120 and striking plate member 20 could be removably or non-removably attached to one another by other means known within the art, such as, for exemplary purposes only, frictional fit, screws, snaps, and/or a tab and slot system. As more fully described below, cavity 32 further functions as an acoustic chamber and changing the depth of insertion of striking assembly 120 into striking plate member 20 changes the tone of sound created by apparatus 10.

Preferably disposed on top side 30 are four equally spaced-apart acoustic channels 34, 35, 36 and 37, wherein

each acoustic channel preferably extends from cavity 32 to peripheral side wall 50, thereby disposing four rectangular-shaped apertures 52, 54, 56 and 58 within peripheral side wall 50. Preferably, acoustic channels 34, 35, 36 and 37 are configured such that sound emanating from cavity 32 resonates through acoustic channels 34, 35, 36 and 37, and exits out of apertures 52, 54, 56 and 58, as more fully described below. Although it is preferred that top side 30 have four acoustic channels 34, 35, 36 and 37 disposed thereon, it is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that top side 30 could eliminate acoustic channels 34, 35, 36 and 37, wherein apertures 52, 54, 56 and 58 would be located anywhere on peripheral side wall 50 so long as apertures 52, 54, 56 and 58 do not contact top side 30. Furthermore, although it is preferred that peripheral side wall 50 have apertures 52, 54, 56 and 58 disposed thereon, it is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that peripheral side wall 50 could eliminate apertures 52, 54, 56 and 58.

Preferably, striking plate 42 is integrally formed or permanently affixed to bottom side 40 by any suitable means known within the art, such as, for exemplary purposes only,

glue, cement or rivets; however, it is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that striking plate 42 could be removably attached to bottom side 40 by any suitable means known within the art, such as, for exemplary purposes only, frictional fit, snaps, screws, or a tab and slot system. Moreover, although striking plate 42 is preferably circular-shaped, it is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that striking plate 42 could be any suitable shape and/or size, so long as striking plate 42 provides a surface large enough for a striking stick to stroke thereacross and simulate a turkey call, as more fully described below. Although striking plate 42 is preferably formed from metal, it is contemplated in an alternative embodiment that striking plate 42 could be formed from other flat, hard materials having a frictional surface, such as, for exemplary purposes only, aluminum, plastic, slate, tempered glass, crystal or the like. If striking plate 42 is selectively formed from tempered glass, the glass surface must be properly prepared for use as a striking plate. Generally, this involves scoring the surface of the glass to form miniature transverse grooves thereon. Scoring can be accomplished via polishing with Emory cloth or by any other suitable means.

Striking stick 12 preferably generally comprises top side 14 and bottom side 16. Although it is preferred that striking stick 12 is a cylinder-shaped rod, it is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that striking stick 12 could be any suitable shape and/or size, so long as striking stick 12 may be held in a fashion wherein bottom side 16 thereof may be frictionally slid across striking plate 42 of striking plate member 20, as more fully described below. Further, although it is preferred that striking stick 12 be formed from plastic, it is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that striking stick 12 could be formed from other solid, relatively strong materials, such as, for exemplary purposes only, glass, metal or wood, so long as bottom side 16 has a frictional surface for engaging striking plate 42 of striking plate member 20.

Top side 14 of striking stick 12 is preferably integrally formed or permanently affixed to grip handle 18 by any suitable means known within the art, such as, for exemplary purposes only, glue, cement or bolts; however, it is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that striking

stick **12** could be removably attached to grip handle **18** by any suitable means known within the art, such as, for exemplary purposes only, frictional fit or screws. Although it is preferred that grip handle **18** is a substantially funnel-shaped handle, it is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that grip handle **18** could be any suitable shape and/or size so long as it functions as a non-slip handle for gripping striking stick **12**. Further, although it is preferred that grip handle **18** is formed from plastic, it is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that grip handle **18** could be formed from other non-slip materials, such as, for exemplary purposes only, wood, metal or glass. It is further contemplated that striking stick **12** could entirely or partially eliminate grip handle **18**.

Striking assembly **120** generally preferably comprises tube **130**, sounding board **140**, striking block **150**, sliding member **170** and elastic retention member **210**. Preferably, tube **130** has top side **132**, bottom side **134**, and peripheral sidewall **136**. Although tube **130** is preferably cylinder-shaped, it is contemplated that tube **130** could embody alternate shapes, such as, for exemplary purposes only,

ball, pyramid or cube. Preferably, the peripheral circumference of bottom side **134** is equal to the circumference of cavity **32** of striking plate member **20**, wherein bottom side **134** can be inserted into cavity **32** of striking plate member **20** to removably attach striking assembly **120** to striking plate member **20** via threaded engagement. Formed preferably on the bottom of peripheral sidewall **136** is threaded engagement **135**, dimensioned for reception by threaded interface **70** formed on striking plate member **20**.

Also preferably disposed on peripheral sidewall **136** are apertures **138** and **139**. Although it is preferred that apertures **138** and **139** are circular-shaped, it is contemplated that apertures **138** and **139** could alternatively embody other suitable shapes and/or sizes that allow insertion and movement of the elongated rod of sliding member **170**, as more fully described below. Although it is preferred that top side **132** be open, thereby exposing the center of tube **130**, it is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that top side **132** could be covered. Further, as more fully described below, tube **130** further functions as an acoustic chamber.

Preferably, attachment means **131** is disposed on the bottom inner wall of peripheral sidewall **136**, wherein attachment means **131** preferably connects elastic retention member **210** to tube **130**, as more fully described below. Although it is preferred that attachment means **131** be a hook, it is contemplated that attachment means **131** could alternatively embody other suitable attachment means, such as, for exemplary purposes only, clasps, pins, tabs, slots or glue. Additionally, pad **133** is preferably glued to the top inner wall of peripheral sidewall **136**, wherein pad **133** is preferably attached directly above attachment means **131**. It is recognized that pad **133**, in alternate embodiments, could be attached by other means, such as, for exemplary purposes only, pins, snaps, or hook-and-loop fasteners. Although pad **133** is preferably a rectangular-shaped strip, it is contemplated in alternate embodiments that pad **133** may be any shape or size, so long as pad **133** functions to cushion the inner wall of tube **130** from sliding member **170**. Further, although pad **133** is preferably formed from rubber, it is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that pad **133** could be formed from other soft materials, such as, for exemplary purposes only, sponge, felt or cotton.

Sounding board **140** generally preferably comprises top side **142** and bottom side **144**, wherein top side **142** is preferably permanently fixed to bottom side **134** of tube **130**
5 by any suitable means known within the art, such as, for exemplary purposes only, glue, cement or rivets; however, it is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that sounding board **140** could be removably secured to bottom side **134** by any suitable means known within the art, such as, for
10 exemplary purposes only, frictional fit, snaps, screws or a tab and slot system. Although sounding board **140** is preferably circular-shaped, it is contemplated, in alternate embodiments, that sounding board **140** may be any suitable size or shape, so long as the planar area of
15 sounding board **140** is less than or equal to the planar area of bottom side **134** of tube **130**. Moreover, although sounding board **140** is preferably formed from aluminum, it is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that sounding board **140** could be formed from wood, plastic, glass, or any
20 other suitable material capable of resonating the turkey call sounds simulated by apparatus **10**. As more fully described below, positioning sounding board **140** between striking plate **42** of striking plate member **20** and the

striking plate of striking assembly **120** preferably allows sounding board **140** to function as a sounding board for both striking plate member **20** and striking assembly **120**.

5 Preferably, striking block **150** is pyramid-shaped and generally comprises top side **152**, bottom side **154**, and sidewalls **156**, **158**, **160** and **162**, wherein bottom side **154** is substantially centered and permanently affixed to top side **142** of sounding board **140** by any suitable means known
10 within the art, such as, for exemplary purposes only, glue, cement or rivets. Preferably, sidewall **156** is adjacent to bottom side **154** disposed at an angle approximately equal to 90 degrees therefrom, sidewall **158** is adjacent to bottom side **154** disposed at an angle approximately equal to 20
15 degrees therefrom, sidewall **160** is adjacent to bottom side **154** disposed at an angle approximately equal to 35 degrees therefrom, and sidewall **162** is adjacent to bottom side **154** disposed at an angle approximately equal to 35 degrees therefrom. It is recognized that striking block **150** could
20 alternatively embody other suitable shapes and/or sizes, so long as top side **152** thereof is positioned below sliding member **170**, and so long as top side **152** is positioned to engage the striking plate of sliding member **170**.

Although striking block **150** is preferably formed from wood, it is contemplated in an alternate embodiment that striking block **150** could be formed from other solid, relatively strong materials so long as top side **152** has a frictional surface for engaging the striking plate of sliding member **170**.

Preferably, sliding member **170** generally comprises elongated rod **180** and base member **190**, wherein base member **190** generally comprises top side **192**, bottom side **194**, and sidewalls **196**, **198**, **200** and **202**. Although sliding member **170** is preferably formed from plastic, it is contemplated in alternate embodiments that sliding member **170** may be formed from other suitable materials, such as, for exemplary purposes only, metal or wood. Elongated rod **180** is preferably a cylinder-shaped shaft; however, it is contemplated that elongated rod **180** could alternatively embody other suitable shapes and/or sizes, so long as elongated rod **180** is dimensioned to be retained by apertures **138** and **139** of tube **130**, and so long as elongated rod **180** is able to easily slide in and out of apertures **138** and **139** of tube **130**. Preferably, sidewall **196** of base

member **190** is integrally formed or permanently affixed to the lateral side of elongated rod **180**, wherein base member **190** is positioned such that sidewall **198** of base member **190** is less than 0.25 inch from the inner wall of tube **130** when
5 elongated rod **180** is retained in tube **130**. In such a preferred position, sidewall **196** is in direct contact with pad **133** of tube **130** and directly above attachment means **131** of tube **130**. Sidewall **196** is preferably a curved surface to permit conformation of same to the curved inner wall of
10 tube **130**. Sidewall **200** of base member **190** preferably has attachment means **204** disposed thereon for attachment of elastic retention member **210**. Although attachment means **204** preferably employs grooves to attach elastic retention member **210**, it is contemplated in an alternate embodiment
15 that any suitable means of attachment may be employed, such as, for exemplary purposes only, tabs, pins, pegs or clasps.

Preferably, striking plate **206** is integrally formed or
20 permanently affixed to bottom side **194** of base member **190** of sliding member **170** by any suitable means known within the art, such as, for exemplary purposes only, glue, cement or rivets; however, it is contemplated in an alternate

embodiment that striking plate **206** may be removably attached to bottom side **194** by any suitable means known within the art, such as, for exemplary purposes only, frictional fit, snaps, screws or a tab and slot system.

5 Moreover, although striking plate **206** is preferably a rectangular strip, it is contemplated, in alternate embodiments, that striking plate **206** could be any suitable size or shape, so long as striking plate **206** provides a surface large enough for top side **152** of striking block **150**

10 to frictionally slide thereacross and simulate a turkey call, as more fully described below. Although striking plate **206** is preferably formed from metal, it is contemplated in an alternative embodiment that striking plate **206** could be formed from other flat, hard materials

15 having a frictional surface, such as, for exemplary purposes only, aluminum, plastic, slate, tempered glass, crystal, or the like. If striking plate **206** is alternatively formed from tempered glass, the glass surface must be properly prepared for use as a striking plate;

20 generally via scoring of the glass surface to form miniature transverse grooves thereon. Scoring can be accomplished via polishing with Emory cloth or by any other suitable means.

Preferably, elastic retention member **210** is in the form of an elastic rubber band; however, it is recognized that elastic retention member **210** could alternatively embody other suitable shapes and/or sizes so long as it functions to hold striking block **150** in contact with sliding member **170** and automatically returns sliding member **170** to its original starting position when elastic retention member **210** is attached to sliding member **170** and tube **130**, as more fully described below. One end of elastic retention member **210** is preferably attached to attachment means **131** of tube **130**, and one end of elastic retention member **210** is preferably attached to attachment means **204** of sliding member **170**. Preferably, elastic retention member **210** is disposed from sounding board **140** at an angle sufficient to produce a downward force and urge striking plate **206** against top side **152** of striking block **150**. With this preset initial downward force, combined with the positioning of striking plate **206** and top side **152**, the calls of a wild turkey can be accurately simulated by having uniform starting conditions and tuning, as more fully described below.

Either striking plate member **20** or striking assembly **120** may be utilized to simulate the calls of a wild turkey. To operate striking plate member **20**, striking stick **12** is held in one hand and apparatus **10** is held in the other.

5 Bottom side **16** of striking stick **12** is brought into contact with striking plate **42** of striking plate member **20** in short strokes to produce sounds simulative of turkey yelps, purrs, clucks and so on.

10 To operate striking assembly **120**, the blunt end of elongated rod **180** of sliding member **170** is pushed into tube **130** so that striking plate **206** frictionally engages top side **152** of striking block **150**. Unlike conventional frictional-type game call devices that move a striker over

15 a striking plate, the present invention slides the striking plate over a stationary striker. Sliding member **170** is automatically returned to its original starting position within tube **130** by elastic retention member **210**. No sound is produced by the return of sliding member **170**. In

20 addition, pad **133** is provided on the inner wall of striking assembly **120** so that a turkey will not be scared away by the noise of sliding member **170** colliding with the inner wall of striking assembly **120**. The combination of the

preset force urging striking plate **206** against top side **152** of striking block **150**, the orientation of striking plate **206** and top side **152** with respect to each other, the types of materials utilized, and the configuration of the
5 acoustic chambers result in the simulation and production of highly accurate turkey calls.

As discussed above, positioning sounding board **140** between striking plate **42** of striking plate member **20** and
10 striking plate **206** of striking assembly **120** allows sounding board **140** to function as a sounding board for both striking plate member **20** and striking assembly **120**. Preferably, sound vibrates off sounding board **140**, resonates through cavity **32**, travels through acoustic channels **34**, **35**, **36** and
15 **37** and is transmitted out from apertures **52**, **54**, **56** and **58**. In addition, sound vibrates off sounding board **140**, resonates through tube **130**, and is transmitted out top side **132**.

20 In an alternate embodiment, striking block **150** could be a slate peg.

In another alternate embodiment, elastic retention member **210** could be a coiled spring.

In an alternate embodiment, elastic retention member
5 **210** could be attached to sounding board **140**.

In another alternate embodiment, pad **133** could be disposed on sidewall **196** of base member **190** of sliding member **170**.

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In yet another alternate embodiment, tube **130** of striking assembly **120** could possess a rain cover and an acoustic channel.

15 In still another alternate embodiment, striking plate member **20** could eliminate all channels and apertures.

Having thus described exemplary embodiments of the present invention, it should be noted by those skilled in
20 the art that the within disclosures are exemplary only, and that various other alternatives, adaptations, and modifications may be made within the scope of the present invention. Accordingly, the present invention is not

limited to the specific embodiments illustrated herein, but is limited only by the following claims.